

keep doing more of the same. We'll conduct our intelligence the same way as we have in the past. We'll spend a little more money here, a little less money there, but we'll do the same things we've been doing and do them the same way. And Congress will continue to abdicate its oversight responsibility. That's unacceptable.

Every member of this Congress supports the men and women of our intelligence community who put their lives on the line every day to keep our nation safe. I am a veteran of the intelligence community, having worked at the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and I have the utmost respect for our intelligence professionals. However, we do a disservice to their hard work and personal sacrifice if we do not make sure that they have the tools and organizational structure they need to perform their duties successfully.

We all know now that they work within a broken system plagued by miscommunication, lack of coordination, and poor organization. In my view, the worst thing we can do for them is to continue to prop up this broken system. When a ship is sinking, you can either hand out buckets or you can repair the holes. Congress should be in the job of repairing the intelligence community, not bailing it out.

I want to be clear that our intelligence failures are not the fault of the men and women who work in the intelligence community. They are the result of complex, competitive and often redundant organizations that prevent the good work of our intelligence operatives from resulting in good, comprehensive products.

Unfortunately, there is no indication in this bill that we have learned anything from our intelligence mistakes. Nearly 3 years ago, our intelligence services failed to prevent the attacks on the World Trade Center, which took the lives of more than a hundred of my constituents in central New Jersey. An anthrax attack, which originated in my district and which targeted Members of Congress and other innocent citizens, still remains unsolved by the FBI. Today, our soldiers are risking their lives in Iraq after fighting a war to bottle-up weapons of mass destruction that our intelligence services said were there, but were not. The list of failures goes on.

And yet, with this bill, Congress continues to fail to make any reforms of the intelligence community. In fact, there is no indication in this bill that Congress plans to exert any more oversight over the intelligence community to hold it accountable for its performance than it has in years past. That is inexcusable.

In Committee, many of my colleagues and I offered a series of commonsense reforms that would have strengthened intelligence and strengthened oversight. They were all rejected.

For example, one of the reforms included a provision that would have established a special "red-team" that would have been charged with challenging assumptions and poking holes in the so-called "judgments" of the Intelligence Community. In other words, the "red-team" would be our in-house devil's advocate. It would make Intelligence analyses like the National Intelligence Estimate stronger and less subject to misinterpretation or selective editing by providing policy-makers with a new "red team" section where all doubts, con-

cerns, and alternative views are clearly laid out. It would help us make sure that we actually know what we think we know. There was no reason for this reform to be rejected.

Finally, I was horrified that the Majority decided not to allow debate on Mr. Peterson's amendment, which would have fixed a major flaw in this bill. The bill only funds one-third of the critical counterterrorism funds the intelligence agencies say they need. The Peterson amendment would fund 100 percent of the counterterrorism funding needed and would do so now.

Instead, the Majority plans to wait to ask for more money in a supplemental appropriation later this year. However, by funding our intelligence community by supplemental we in Congress will be curbing our own ability to oversee how those funds are spent. We need to give the intelligence community the financial support it needs, but it would be irresponsible for us to give them a blank check and not ask any questions.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, it is my responsibility to make sure that this Congress both exerts the proper oversight over our intelligence community and that the community receives the proper directives and funding to be successful. I cannot in good conscience vote for this bill because it is structured in such a way that will only contribute to more intelligence failures in the future.

HONORING HOLLY WALKER FOR HER OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor an outstanding young woman and student. Holly Walker has received the Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship. As one of eight Nevada recipients, Holly went on to compete nationally for Discover Card's top scholarship award in which she, along with nine other students from around the country, were awarded an additional scholarship on top of the award received at the state level.

Discover Card awards scholarships to junior high school students based on leadership merit, academic achievements, and the ability to share talents with others while simultaneously overcoming considerable personal challenges. The scholarship can then be used for any type of post-high school education.

I congratulate Holly Walker for this great accomplishment and contribution to the state of Nevada. As one of only nine national recipients, and the only Nevada recipient to receive such an honor, I ask my colleagues to stand with me in recognition of this outstanding high school student.

CONGRATULATING GLORIA
MACAPAGAL ARROYO ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RE-ELECTION
AS PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who was officially proclaimed President of the Philippines yesterday, the 23rd of June, 2004. This election marks a milestone in the politics of the Philippines. It demonstrated that, despite the difficulties that persist in the Philippines, the leadership of the country remains committed to democratic governance.

I have had the pleasure of meeting President Arroyo on two separate occasions. I have also interacted and worked with several members of her cabinet. The Philippines, under the leadership of President Arroyo, has been a steadfast partner of the United States in the War on Terror. While Al-Qaeda has sought to spread its influence, training camps and criminal enterprises into Asia, the government of the Philippines has taken a proactive approach to ensure that international terrorism does not take root in this strong ally of the United States. The government of the Philippines has recently made important strides towards protecting intellectual property rights and other measures that will strengthen trade and contact between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we have the privilege of living in the world's strongest democracy and as such we, as a nation, often take it upon ourselves to answer freedom's call and point out injustices in the world and, in some occasions, take an active role to bring democracy to those who do not enjoy freedom. While these cases of injustice often command our immediate attention, it is important to note the United States has many friends throughout the world who, like the Philippines, have been there for the United States when we have needed a dependable ally.

The 108th Congress has also acted to strengthen the friendship between our two nations. The aid we provide the Philippines provides important support in the War on Terror and our decision to grant Filipino veterans of World War II the same benefits as the American counterparts with whom they served has gone a long way toward righting an injustice and enhancing the ability of the government of the Philippines to work with the United States on numerous issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus, I congratulate both President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on her reelection to a new term of office and the people of the Philippines for holding a competitive election that demonstrated the vibrant spirit of democracy of the Philippines. I look forward to working with President Arroyo on future projects that benefit both America and the Philippines.